

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 01373 110814Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W  
-----068749 120310Z /65

R 101100Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 675  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SF  
SUBJECT: CHANGING APARTHEID IN SPORTS

1. ON FEBRUARY 22, SPORT MINISTER PIET KOORNHOF BEGAN WHAT COULD LEAD TO THE END OF LEGAL APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS. IN A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION, KOORNHOF STATED THAT "NO PERMIT OR OTHER LEGAL PERMISSION IS NEEDED BY ANY PLAYER TO PLAY ON ANY COURT IN SOUTH AFRICA OR TO JOIN ANY CLUB." THE LETTER ALSO SAID THAT NATIONAL OR PROVINCIAL SPORTING BODIES COULD ARRANGE ANNUAL ADVANCE CLEARANCES FOR MIXED SPECTATOR CROWDS AND STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO MODIFY RESTRICTIONS SO SPORT'S CLUBS COULD GET INTERNATIONAL STATUS AND BE ABLE TO PROVIDE LIQUOR TO ALL PARTICIPATING SPORTSMEN. THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION OVER WHETHER THIS RULING APPLIED ONLY TO TENNIS BUT THE RECIPIENT OF THE LETTER, MR. PHILLIPE CHARTIER, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE LETTER WAS IN RESPONSE TO A DISCUSSION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND

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KOORNHOF WHICH HAD ENCOMPASSED ALL SPORTS. EARLY REACTIONS FROM SPORTING BODY OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WERE THAT THIS DID APPLY TO ALL SPORTS AND NEITHER KOORNHOF NOR THE GOVERNMENT HAVE CHOSEN TO DISPUTE THIS INTERPRETATION. MOST SPORT'S ADMINISTRATORS AT THE NATIONAL AND CLUB LEVELS INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS HAVE REACTED FAVORABLY BUT THERE IS SOME INDICATION IN PRESS

ACCOUNTS THAT NOT ALL CABINET MEMBERS ARE BEHIND KOORNHOF.

2. SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS NEW "POLICY", SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURED WHICH MAY BELIE ITS VALIDITY. FIRST OF ALL, SOUTH AFRICA DROPPED OUT OF THE DAVIS CUP MATCHES FOR THE PRESENT YEAR. THE REASONS GIVEN BY SOUTH AFRICA TENNIS UNION WERE THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD URGED THE WITHDRAWAL IN ORDER TO AVOID PRESSURES TO DROP SOUTH AFRICA'S MEMBERSHIP ALTOGETHER. THE ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL, HOWEVER, CAME SHORTLY AFTER AN ATTEMPT AT COMBINING THE WHITE, COLORED AND BLACK TENNIS UNIONS IN THE COUNTRY FAILED. ALSO, TWO DAYS AFTER KOORNHOF'S LETTER, A MIXED SOCCER TEAM PLAYING ON A FIELD IN JOHANNESBURG WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED AND THEN SENT HOME. THE REASON GIVEN WAS THAT THE PROPER PERMISSION FOR ACCESS TO THE FIELD HADN'T BEEN APPLIED FOR. ALSO, A LONG STANDING MATCH BETWEEN A POPULAR SOWETO SOCCER TEAM AND THE WITS-WATERSRAND UNIVERSITY ON MARCH 4 HAD PROMPTED SEVERAL HUNDRED WITS STUDENTS TO ASK FOR PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE MATCH. THEY WERE TURNED DOWN BY THE EAST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD BECAUSE NO FACILITIES, I.E. TOILETS, WERE AVAILABLE FOR WHITES.

3. COMMENT: REACTION AMONGST THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE WITH THE DOMINANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEME BEING AN END TO APARTHEID IN SPORTS. INDEED, KOORNHOF MAY HAVE OPENED A SIGNIFICANT DOOR THIS TIME, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF SOME OTHER FORCES MAY BLOW THAT DOOR SHUT. AS IN THE PAST, HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS ARE VAGUE AND LEAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR BACKTRACKING. KOORNHOF IS OBVIOUSLY UNDER SOME PRESSURES FROM WITHIN THE CAUCUS NOT TO MOVE SO FAR OR FAST ON SPORT AND HE MAY YET BOW TO THEM, HAVING GIVEN HIMSELF THE AVENUE TO DO SO IF REQUIRED. BUT, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE YET TO SEE IT IN PRACTICE, AS IT NOW STANDS, INDIVIDUAL CLUBS ARE THEORETICALLY ALLOWED TO INVITE BLACK SPORTSMEN AND, WITH PERMISSION, BLACK SPECTATORS, AND, EVENTUALLY, MAYBE EVEN SERVE LIQUOR TO THOSE SPORTSMEN. IF IT STANDS, THIS STEP IS INDEED A MOVE AWAY FROM APARTHEID IN SPORTS.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** APARTHEID, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHANGING APARTHEID IN SPORTS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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